

HIGHLIGHT IN THIS REPORT

November 1, 2005 Crop Prospects

Louisiana Crop Prospects

Although Louisiana cotton farmers lost the chance to set a second state yield record in three years time due to Hurricane Rita and the need to get the crop out of the fields as quickly as possible, the crop was still good enough to be the second highest yielding in state history. There's no doubt that Rita caused significant losses, but the state is still looking at a great cotton crop. Plus, Louisiana's soybean and sorghum crops produced record yields. The news for the state's sugarcane crop, however, was not so good. Although early reports indicate that sugar content is relatively normal, the estimate for harvested tonnage is down again.

Louisiana's **cotton** production is expected to total 1.16 million bales, up 60,000 bales from last month and up 31 percent from 2004. Acreage harvested is estimated at 600,000 acres. The yield per acre, at 928 pounds, is up 48 pounds from last month and 61 pounds above 2004. This is the second largest yield in the state's history.

Louisiana **rice** production is forecast at 30.7 million cwt, unchanged from the October 1 estimate but up 8 percent from 2004. Rice acreage for harvest is estimated at 525,000 acres. Yield per acre is forecast at 5,850 pounds, unchanged from last month but up 500 pounds from last year. This is the second highest yield on record, behind only the 2003 crop which had an average yield of 5,870 pounds per acre.

The Louisiana **sugarcane** crop is estimated at 9.56 million net tons, down 5 percent from the previous month and down 14 percent from last year. Acreage expected for harvest (sugar and seed) is 455,000 acres. Yield is forecast at 21 net tons per acre, down 1 ton from the October 1 estimate and down 2.8 tons from 2004. This will be the lowest net tonnage per acre since 1990, when the state produced 20.6 net tons per acre.

Soybean production is expected to total 29.4 million bushels in Louisiana, up 3 percent from the previous month, but down 10 percent from a year ago. Acreage of soybeans expected for harvest is 840,000 acres. Yield is forecast at a record 35 bushels per acre, up 1 bushel from the previous month, and up 2 bushels from 2004.

Louisiana's **corn** production is forecast at 46.9 million bushels, up 1 percent from the previous month, but down 15 percent from 2004. An estimated 330,000 acres were harvested for grain. Yield per acre, at 142 bushels, is up 2 bushels from last month and up 7 bushels from a year ago.

Sorghum production is estimated at 8.67 million bushels in the state, up 2 percent from last month and up 67 percent from last year. Sorghum harvested acreage is estimated 85,000 acres. Yield is forecast at 102 bushels per acre, up 2 bushels from the previous month and up 37 bushels from 2004. This is a record yield for the state, shattering the previous record yield of 85 bushels per acre set two years ago.

United States Crop Prospects

All cotton production is forecast at 23.2 million 480-pound bales, up 2 percent from the October forecast but slightly below last year's record high production. Yield is expected to average 813 pounds per acre, up 16 pounds from last month but down 42 pounds from 2004. If realized, both production and yield would be the second largest on record, behind last year. The November area expected for harvest remains unchanged from last month, at 13.7 million acres, but up 5 percent from 2004.

Upland cotton harvested area, is forecast at 13.4 million acres, unchanged from last month but up 5 percent from last year. American-Pima harvested acres are unchanged from last month but are up 7 percent from 2004.

Cotton producers in the lower Delta region had excellent weather for harvesting during early and mid-October, with progress ahead of normal. By mid-month, defoliation was virtually complete throughout the region. In the upper Delta, a cold front brought sunny days during the latter part of the month, allowing harvest to advance in Missouri and Tennessee. Boll weight in Louisiana is slightly ahead of the 5-year average while the boll count is the highest of the last 10 years.

Rice production is forecast at 221 million cwt, down 1 percent from the October forecast and down 4 percent from last year. Area expected for harvest, at 3.34 million acres, is unchanged from last month but up fractionally from 2004. As of November 1, the U.S. all rice yield is

forecast at 6,603 pounds per acre, down 75 pounds from last month and down 339 pounds from last year's record high yield. However, a record high yield is forecast for Texas. As of October 30, rice harvest was complete or nearly complete in all 6 estimating states.

Sugarcane production for sugar and seed in 2005 is forecast at 28.4 million tons, 6 percent below the October forecast and 2 percent below 2004. Sugarcane growers intend to harvest 956,900 acres for sugar and seed during the 2005 crop year, down fractionally from October but up 2 percent from last year. Yield is forecast at 29.7 tons per acre, 1.9 tons below the previous forecast, 1.2 tons below the 2004 yield, and the lowest since 1933.

In Louisiana, 30 percent of the crop had been harvested as of October 30, four percentage points behind normal. Initial yields have shown the impact of Hurricane Rita to be worse than previously expected, prompting a decrease of 1.0 ton from last month's yield forecast. In Florida, harvest was just getting underway when Hurricane Wilma cut across the peninsula, with high winds affecting most of the growing area. Wilma's impact on the crop has not yet been fully assessed, but preliminary indications are that acreage harvested will be virtually unchanged, but yield will be down 3.0 tons from the October forecast, due to stalks being blown down and unharvestable.

Soybean production is forecast at 3.04 billion bushels, up 3 percent from October but 3 percent below 2004. If realized, this would be the second largest U.S. soybean crop on record, behind only last year's crop. Based on November 1 conditions, yields are expected to average a record high 42.7 bushels per acre, up 1.1 bushels from October and 0.5 bushel above last year. Producers in the Corn Belt, the southern Delta and most of the Southeast are realizing higher yields than expected last month, with record high yields forecast in Iowa, Minnesota, Nebraska, North Dakota and Louisiana. Area for harvest in the U.S. is forecast at 71.3 million acres, unchanged from last month but down 4 percent from 2004.

Corn production is forecast at 11.0 billion bushels, up 2 percent from last month but 7 percent below 2004. Based on conditions as of November 1, yields are expected to average 148.4 bushels per acre, up 2.3 bushels from October but 12.0 bushels below last year. If realized, both production and yield would be the

second largest on record, behind last year. Of the major producing states, forecast yields are higher than last month in Iowa, Indiana, Minnesota, Ohio and Wisconsin as producers realized larger than expected yields and late planted fields matured under favorable fall conditions. Yield prospects are still below last year in all major corn states, except Minnesota and Wisconsin where producers are experiencing record high yields.

Area harvested and to be harvested for grain is forecast at 74.3 million acres, unchanged from October but up 1 percent from 2004. The November 1 corn objective yield data indicate ear counts for the combined ten objective yield states (Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, Ohio, South Dakota and Wisconsin) are down 3 percent from last year's record high. The indicated number of ears per acre are lower than last year in all objective yield states, except South Dakota.

Sorghum production is forecast at 388 million bushels, up 3 percent from last month but down 15 percent from last year. Based on November 1 conditions, the sorghum yield forecast is 68.2 bushels per acre, up 2.2 bushels from October but down 1.6 bushels from last year. Yields are either increasing or unchanged from October in all of the major sorghum producing states. The yield in Kansas, the largest producing state, is expected to be 75.0 bushels per acre, up 3.0 bushels from October but down 1.0 bushel from 2004. Producers in Texas, the second largest sorghum producing state, expect a yield of 59.0 bushels per acre, up 2.0 bushels from last month but down 3.0 bushels from last year. A record high yield of 102 bushels per acre is forecast in Louisiana. Area for harvest as grain is forecast at 5.69 million acres, unchanged from last month and 13 percent below last year.

As of October 30, harvest in the top 11 producing states was 71 percent complete, compared with 59 percent last year and the 5-year average of 74 percent. Harvest was complete in Louisiana and 99 percent complete in Arkansas. In Kansas, as a result of rainfall during the middle of October, only 70 percent of the crop was harvested, which was slightly behind the 5-year average. The harvest in Texas, at 73 percent complete, continued to lag behind the 5-year average of 79 percent. Slow crop development and rainfall during October contributed to this delay.

CROP REPORT - LOUISIANA

November 1, 2005

CROP	ACRES EXPECTED FOR HARVEST (000)		FORECAST YIELD PER ACRE		UNIT	FORECAST PRODUCTION (000)	
	2004	2005	2004	2005		2004	2005
Corn for grain	410	330	135	142	bushels	55,350	46,860
Upland Cotton	490	600	867	928	lbs: bales	885	1,160
Rice	533	525	5,340	5,850	lbs: cwt	28,522	30,713
Sorghum for grain	80	85	65	102	bushels	5,200	8,670
Soybeans	990	840	33	35	bushels	32,670	29,400
Sugarcane (sugar & seed)	465	455	23.8	21.0	net tons	11,067	9,555
Hay, all ¹	370	400	3.0	2.5	tons	1,110	1,000
Pecans, all ¹	---	---	---	---	pounds	9,000	4,000

CROP REPORT - UNITED STATES

November 1, 2005

CROP	ACRES EXPECTED FOR HARVEST (000)		FORECAST YIELD PER ACRE		UNIT	FORECAST PRODUCTION (000)	
	2004	2005	2004	2005		2004	2005
Corn for grain	73,632	74,333	160.4	148.4	bushels	11,807,217	11,032,105
Upland Cotton	12,809	13,408	843	806	lbs: bales	22,505	22,517
Rice	3,325	3,343	6,942	6,603	lbs: cwt	230,818	220,731
Sorghum for grain	6,517	5,687	69.8	68.2	bushels	454,899	387,686
Soybeans	73,958	71,270	42.2	42.7	bushels	3,123,686	3,043,116
Sugarcane (sugar & seed)	938.2	956.9	30.9	29.7	net tons	29,013	28,444
Hay, all ¹	61,916	61,723	2.55	2.48	tons	157,774	152,871
Pecans, all ¹	---	---	---	---	pounds	185,800	288,700

¹Estimates for current year carried forward from an earlier forecast.

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